

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 120706  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /038 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK/CBQ  
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH  
-----078993 121028Z /21

R 112147Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PINS

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF STATEMENTS BY JOHN STOCKWELL  
ON IVORY COAST AND UNIDENTIFIED NEIGHBORING COUNTRY

1. PAGE 1 SECTION C OF MAY 11 WASHINGTON POST CARRIES  
INTERVIEW BY SALLY QUINN WITH FORMER CIA EMPLOYEE JOHN  
STOCKWELL AUTHOR OF "IN SEARCH OF ENEMIES -- A CIA  
STORY". SECTIONS OF ARTICLE POSSIBLY RELEVANT TO  
ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE EXCERPTED BELOW. PRESS GUIDANCE  
FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

2. PAGE C1 BEGIN QUOTE:

HE TALKS ABOUT THE "THREADS OF GUILT", "THE THINGS THAT  
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BOTHER HIM." LIKE FOR INSTANCE THE COUP HE ALMOST  
ENGINEERED WHILE HE WAS STATIONED IN ABIDJAN, THE IVORY  
COAST.

IT WAS IN A SMALL NEIGHBORING COUNTRY WHICH HE REFUSED  
TO NAME. HE RECRUITED AN AGENT, THEN INSISTED THAT THE  
AGENT FIND UNREST. THE AGENT COULDN'T FIND ANY UNREST.

"WELL," ASKED STOCKWELL, "WHAT ABOUT YOUR COUSIN?" THE AGENT WAS ON THE PAYROLL. WITHOUT UNREST HE WOULD LOSE HIS FEE. THE AGENT REPORTED HIS COUSIN WAS UNHAPPY.

SOON THE COUSIN WAS PROMOTING A COUP. "WE HATCHED OURSELVES A LITTLE PLOT," SAYS STOCKWELL, SOLEMNLY. BUT THE COUSIN HAD AGITATED A COUP AND SOON STOCKWELL WAS MEETING SECRETLY WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY AT NIGHT TO WARN HIM. THE COUP WAS AVERTED THE NIGHT BEFORE IT WAS SCHEDULED. HIS AGENT WAS ARRESTED AND THROWN IN JAIL FOR SEVEN YEARS.

"IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THEN," HE SAYS NOW, THAT I WAS FOMENTING A COUP. BUT I DO KNOW THAT MY RECRUIT WOULD NEVER HAVE TALKED TO HIS COUSIN ABOUT A COUP IF I HADN'T SET IT UP."

END QUOTES.

2. PAGE 3 BEGIN QUOTE:

IN 1966 JOHN STOCKWELL WAS SENT OVERSEAS TO AFRICA. "I WENT WITH GREAT CONFIDENCE AND SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS. I WAS THE PERFECT PROTOTYPE."

ABIDJAN, THE IVORY COAST -- HIS FIRST DISAPPOINTMENT.  
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"THERE WERE NO TARGETS. THE COUNTRY WAS STABLE AND PRO-AMERICAN. ALL WE DID WAS SCURRY ABOUT GETTING REPORTS ON THE HEALTH OF THE PRESIDENT. MY BOSS KEPT TELLING US THAT THEY WERE EXPECTING A HEAVY INFLUX OF CHINESE AND RUSSIANS. BUT HE WAS AN EMPIRE BUILDER. HE WANTED MORE MEN UNDER HIM. BUT I THOUGHT I OUGHT TO BE OUT SAVING THE WORLD FROM COMMUNISM."

STOCKWELL ALSO WAS UPSET THAT THE CIA OFFICE WAS LISTED IN THE PHONE BOOK. "PEOPLE KEPT COMING UP TO ME AT COCKTAIL PARTIES AND ASKING ME WHAT WAS GOING ON AT THE CIA."

WHEN STOCKWELL ASKED ABOUT IT HIS BOSS TOLD HIM EVERYBODY KNEW WHO THEY WERE ANYWAY.

"IT DIDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO ME," SAYS STOCKWELL, "BUT MY RATIONALE WAS THAT IT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO QUESTION ANYTHING, EVEN WHETHER OR NOT WE SHOULD BE THERE."

THAT WAS TO BE HIS CONTINUING RATIONALE FOR THE REST

OF HIS TENURE AT THE AGENCY. "OURS NOT TO REASON  
WHY....."

"I JUST FIGURED," HE SAYS, "THAT THERE WERE A BUNCH  
OF GENERALS BACK IN WASHINGTON WITH A BIG MAP MOVING  
PINS AROUND AND MY JOB WAS TO LOOK AS GOOD AS POSSIBLE,  
TO LEARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND TO LOOK FORWARD TO A  
BETTER ASSIGNMENT.

"I'M A HARD-DRIVING, HARD-WORKING PERSON," HE ADDS.  
"SO I JUST MADE A LOT OF RECRUITMENTS." IT WAS IN  
DOING THIS ASSIGNMENT THAT STOCKWELL ENGINEERED HIS  
FAMOUS COUP.

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EVEN THOUGH HIS AGENT ENDED UP IN JAIL FOR SEVEN YEARS,  
STOCKWELL AND HIS STATION PRESENTED IT AS "A BEAUTIFUL  
INTELLIGENCE OPERATION," ENGINEERED RAISES AND  
CONGRATULATIONS FOR THEMSELVES. "I LEFT JUST IN TIME,"  
HE SAYS. "I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO SIT AROUND AND LET MY  
CONSCIENCE BOTHER ME."

END QUOTES.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTELLIGENCE PUBLICATIONS, PRESS RELEASES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE120706  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** BSKIRKPATRICK/CBQ  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** PRESS COVERAGE OF STATEMENTS BY JOHN STOCKWELL ON IVORY COAST AND UNIDENTIFIED NEIGHBORING COUNTRY  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014